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PRESS RELEASE

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Proceeds from Tose's last concert benefit 117 primary schools

Thanks to the 'Tose Fund' established with ticket receipts from Tose Proeski's last concert on 5th October 2007, 117 primary schools have been given kits of educational equipment worth approximately \$1000 each. The schools are from all regions of Macedonia and include schools with Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish language classes.

"On the anniversary of our joint concert with Tose, we are able to report that equipment is being distributed to schools", said Keith Prenton, Chief of Party of the USAID Primary Education Project. "This is what we have been working for and is the reason why Tose wanted to partner with us."

USAID's Primary Education Project (PEP) and the Macedonian Civic Education Center worked with the concert organizers to establish a 'Tose Fund' where concert proceeds were deposited. A spending committee was formed but, after Tose's tragic passing, it was decided to work jointly with the 'National Coordinating Committee in Honor of Tose' to agree how the proceeds should be used and ensure that the money was allocated fairly and transparently to schools.

The schools were able to access on-line a catalogue of the educational kits, which included innovative ICT products, and apply for a donation. Thirty schools chose a practical mathematics kit. Forty selected a basic primary science kit and nineteen an advanced practical science kit. Twenty eight schools chose a kit of ICT equipment for music education.

For more details on the USAID PEP, please visit www.pep.org.mk.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.